

DESCHANEL CHOSEN FRENCH PRESIDENT

Continued from First Page.

for Capt. Sadoul, the Bolshevik deserter from the French Army.

The disappearance of Clemenceau from the political horizon is by far the outstanding feature of the situation. He refuses to listen to any further proposals to render him homage and recompense for his war labors. His letter resigning the premiership is ready and may be in the hands of President Poincaré to-morrow. This at the same time entails his withdrawal as chief of the French delegation in the peace conference and as president of the Supreme Council. Already efforts are being made to induce him to retain the latter position, it being urged that his retirement at this critical stage from the conference deliberations would be little short of a national disaster for France.

Fear Peace With Soviets.

Such action, it is argued, would leave the field free for less fearless allies to make peace with the Soviets, the way for such a step having been already paved by the lifting of the blockade yesterday, which Clemenceau is said to have opposed at the outset. Also it would upset some schemes which have been under construction for the reestablishment of French financial stability in concert with the Allies.

Last year's idea of a financial bureau in connection with the League of Nations has come up anew and Clemenceau was to have presided over the forthcoming conference.

The advent of President Deschanel in the Elysee Palace, in the opinion of the man in the street, will have this advantage, however, that the palace is likely to become as in former days the scene of brilliant festivities, the President-elect being noted for his fondness for social gatherings and his reputation for a host. Clemenceau, it was feared, would have been a retiring President and the French love for pomp and color, light and festivity has returned with peace.

MAJORITY SECOND LARGEST IN HISTORY

Thiers, First Head of Republic, Exceeded Him.

By the Associated Press.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 17.—Paul Deschanel was elected President of the French Republic to-day by 724 votes of the 859 members of the National Assembly.

His majority was the largest since the election of Louis Adolphe Thiers, the first President after the fall of the Empire, who was chosen unanimously.

The result was certain since the caucus of yesterday at which M. Deschanel was chosen the candidate of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, comprising all the various parties. The election took on, besides a holiday character, the atmosphere of a patriotic manifestation.

The feeling among the Senators and Deputies was that after the retirement from the contest of Premier Clemenceau, to whom the Parliament was disposed to give evidence of the nation's gratitude, it was fitting that the new President should come into power with a vote that would give him the necessary authority to speak impressively for France. The general sentiment is that M. Deschanel has not only won the Presidency by such outstanding services as those rendered by Premier Clemenceau, he is a man admirably adapted for the position, which requires careful thought, he is, above all, a safe man.

The proceedings, as provided by the constitution, were formal, giving little occasion for enthusiasm. When the vote was announced, however, the members of Parliament on the floor and the visitors in the gallery joined in a great outburst of acclamation, while former Premier Briand, who generally is credited with a large share in the election of M. Deschanel, declared to a group of friends, "France and the Republic continue."

Madame Deschanel and her children witnessed the demonstration from the gallery and returned to Paris with the President-elect in a motor car. On the return M. Deschanel was followed by a long cortege of parliamentarians. The procession was watched by thousands along the route through the Park of St. Cloud and the Bois du Boulogne, who cheered each car crying "Long live Deschanel!" and "Long live the Republic!"

His Vote Only Announced.

After the balloting Leon Bourgeois, President of the National Assembly, announced to the Assembly only the vote for M. Deschanel, complying with the request of the others who received votes not to include them in the minutes.

In the lack of an official announcement of the vote cast for others than M. Deschanel the tabulations made by various members differed somewhat. One of these tabulations gave M. Jonart 54 votes, Premier Clemenceau 52, Leon Bourgeois 46, President Poincaré 3, Marshal Foch 2, and scattering 6. With the twenty-two blank or void ballots cast this table gave a total of 858, making 868 effective votes, of which 425 was the necessary majority.

M. Deschanel with his 724 votes thus having 299 more than the necessary number.

M. Bourgeois made an address of congratulation to the President-elect, pledging him the support of France. He mentioned M. Deschanel's public service, particularly during the war, and "during a life of admirable uprightness, consistency, like your father's to the cult of duty."

M. Deschanel replied: "The National Assembly, in calling to the Presidency of the Republic the President of the Chamber of Deputies, wishes to mark its

profound attachment for those Parliamentary institutions which in the greatest drama of history showed again their suppleness and their strength. As a faithful guardian of the law I will seek to apply the constitution in letter and in spirit, to solidify and perfect in close accord with the nation's representatives these free institutions of the country.

"Our hopes of 1919 were not entirely realized, and it is necessary to-day to conquer the difficulties that press upon us by strict application of the treaty of Versailles, by the development of our alliances and friendships, and by the union of all the French. That incomparable people whose heroism and sacrifice saved the world will surmount all obstacles upon condition that they be kept thoroughly conversant with affairs and are told the truth.

"I salute my illustrious predecessors, among them M. Poincaré, who in the formidable war represented France with such dignity and nobility. I salute also the great Frenchman who contributed so much to the victory by gathering together the national energies through a magnificent effort. I express the wish that the houses of Parliament will consecrate by solemn homage the immortal services he has rendered the country.

"I address to the members of the National Assembly an expression of unspeakable gratitude. I bring to France and to the republic all my devotion and all my heart."

M. Deschanel, with a military escort that presented arms, received the Ministers, parliamentarians and parliamentary newspaper men, who were formally presented to him. To them he made a brief, separate address, expressing his thanks and a promise of cooperation.

M. Deschanel returned to the Bourbon palace following his election and shortly afterward left for the Elysee Palace where he visited the outgoing President, M. Poincaré, arriving at the Presidential residence at 5 o'clock and leaving at 6:15 o'clock.

The two men shook hands heartily, and M. Poincaré warmly congratulated M. Deschanel. He said it gave him pleasure to welcome the new chief magistrate to the Elysee Palace and to salute him as the choice of the National Assembly.

M. Deschanel left to visit M. Bourgeois, president of the National Assembly, M. Clemenceau and Marshal Foch. The Premier, however, had gone to Bernonville, where he owns a small property. He returned to Paris to-night.

The new President was heartily applauded by the crowd as he entered the Elysee Palace and when he left.

Resembled Social Event.

The election was more like a sumptuous social event than a political one. The circular tier of seats in the great amphitheatre of the palace around the wide space where the places were set for Senators and Deputies were almost filled early this afternoon with women in brilliant toilettes, jewels and furs.

Groups of spectators began to saunter in, laughing and chatting, at about 1 o'clock. They had been the guests at numerous luncheon parties in private rooms in all parts of the chateau and at hotels here. Luncheons are celebrated features of Presidential election day. Famous cooks in Paris hostilities, with large staffs and trucks loaded with foods and wines, were among the first arrivals at Versailles to-day, coming shortly before dawn. Each Cabinet Minister had his own luncheon party, and among the guests, beside distinguished persons in the social life of Paris, were many notable women of the stage.

Of the 800 seats for spectators at the chateau three-quarters were filled with women, while a fringe of dark-coated men lined the walls and aisles. Those who had not lunched at the chateau had come directly from the Hotel de Reunion, which has always been an assembly point outside the chateau for statesmen and gay luncheon parties.

Ambassador Wallace There.

Hugh C. Wallace, American Ambassador, accompanied at luncheon by Count Quinones de Leon, Spanish Ambassador, while near them was Premier Venizelos of Greece with some members of the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference. Next to M. Venizelos' table was one at which were seated Cecile Sorel of the Comedie Francaise and a number of prominent persons in the theatrical world. Everybody inquired for Premier Clemenceau. He had engaged a table at the Hotel de Reunion, but telephoned last night cancelling

his reservation. Paul Deschanel, President of the Chamber of Deputies, and the candidate who loomed large in the forecast of politicians, was not present, nor was he at the chateau. Conversation generally seemed to ignore the election and turned upon fashions, finance and the latest pleasures of the hour.

The session was called to order at 1:10 o'clock this afternoon by Leon Bourgeois, President of the Assembly.

When M. Bourgeois rose and announced the Assembly open the only seats vacant were those previously occupied by Gambetta, Thiers, Carnot, Casimir-Perier, Felix Faure, Fallieres and Poincaré, all Presidents of France except Gambetta.

M. Bourgeois began the proceedings by drawing from a box the name of Senator Sabaterie, who opened the voting. The roll call then proceeded alphabetically and without exciting great interest, it appeared.

Marcel Sembot and Rene Viviani, Socialist leaders, abstained from voting. Former Minister of Munitions Albert Thomas raised the first laugh by voting under the letter "A."

The roll for the vote was read by the Secretary. As each member's name was called he walked forward to the Presidential platform, mounted the steps and received from one usher a small white ball about the size of an ordinary marble. He then advanced to the voting receptacle, which looked much like an American ballot box, dropped his ballot into the wooden slot and then handed his ball to another usher, who kept tally of the members voting.

The only printed ballot distributed bore M. Deschanel's name.

When Gen. Castelnau, the most eminent soldier elected to the Chamber of Deputies, went forward to vote he was greeted with tremendous cheering by the members of both houses and the crowds in the galleries.

The United Socialists held a meeting this morning to discuss the feasibility of presenting a purely Socialist candidate for the Presidency of France. By a vote of 27 to 18, however, the group decided not to put forth a candidate in opposition to Paul Deschanel.

LIBERALISM WINS IN DESCHANEL ELECTION

New French President an Ardent Progressive.

Though the French Assembly has rejected the Tiger, Clemenceau, Father of Victory and incarnation of the spirit of fighting France, it has elected to the Presidency in France—the office always is called "President of the Republic"—a man of well rounded character and career whose experience fits him admirably for the post. Paul Eugene Louis Deschanel, generally known simply as Paul Deschanel, has spent forty-two years in French public life as statesman, orator and writer. He has made no enemies.

That he presided over the Chamber of Deputies throughout the war and the peace negotiations is all that many Americans recall of M. Deschanel. His total experience in that position is twelve years, divided into two terms from 1898 to 1902 and from May, 1912, until yesterday. He presided over all the stormy debates in the Chamber in the many crises from August, 1914, to this day, when the fate of France and of the world was in the balance.

Americans who have visited the Chamber of Deputies have seen M. Deschanel exercise the functions of his office, and have marvelled at him. Clad in evening clothes, no matter what the hour, he stood behind a tall desk, upon a dais high as a Cathedral pulpit. Below him upon the floor and among the benches rising in tiers as in a church, gallery swirled the storm of impassioned Deputies vociferously upholding the tenets of the fifteen political parties that compose the Chamber.

How He Kept Order.

There was no chance for the methods that have made picturesque certain American Speakers: Reed or Cannon, for instance. French Parliamentary law would not permit it. So M. Deschanel calmed the tumult as best he could with the tinkling of a little silver bell, the gently admonishing waggle of a forefinger, or, in extreme cases, a gesture of the arm and hands that can be described best as "quelling," directed first toward those perennial agitators of the Extreme Left and then to the irascible old reactionaries of the Extreme Right. To the spectator from the aisle of the

visitors' or press gallery it was a marvel that he ever brought order.

But it is to his liberal opinions rather than to his tact as a presiding officer that M. Deschanel owes his elevation over Clemenceau, who years ago wounded him in one of the then innumerable French political duels. The French constitution does not give to the President of the Republic powers sufficient to make his political beliefs of much influence in forming national policy (Clemenceau did that to the office years ago), but the election of Deschanel is important as showing the tendencies of French thought.

Though superficially it would seem to indicate a recrudescence of Socialist and radical strength, actually the principal reason for the rejection of Clemenceau and the acceptance of Deschanel is that Clemenceau took President Wilson at his own valuation as the exemplar of American thought, and thus permitted to be drafted a treaty that the American people would not ratify. It is the failure of the American Senate to ratify the Wilson-Clemenceau treaty that has made Paul Deschanel President of France.

After Clemenceau he was the most available candidate and could command the votes of the various Socialist and radical groups in the Assembly that were Clemenceau's implacable enemies. Treaty failure in the United States had lost Clemenceau enough of his normal following among the Moderates to tip the scale.

A Liberal in Politics.

Politically Deschanel has been affiliated with the Progressive Republican party, which is almost equivalent to what the same words denote here, but because of his Presidency over the Chamber has not taken recently an active part as party leader. He has been always what in Europe is called generally a "liberal," speaking and writing in eloquent praise of democracy. He chose democracy as the subject of his address when he became an immortal of the Academie Francaise in 1906. In this address were passages complimentary to the United States, one of which was:

"Not a day passes among this practical, innovating people but some State makes a new experiment in political science."

On the whole Deschanel may be said to represent the best and most sensible in French political thought to-day, the wishes of the great majority of the people and especially of the sober, industrious middle class and peasantry that have always proved themselves the strength of France.

Tradition and the French constitution assign to the President of the Republic a role in affairs inferior to that of the President of the United States. France never could have a Woodrow Wilson without first having revolution. The position of the President of France is almost though not quite as innocuous as that of the King of England.

Had Clemenceau been elected there is doubt whether the Tiger would have been content to play such a part. But there is nothing in the career of M. Deschanel that indicates that he will try to jump over the traces and be other than an illustrious figurehead. Therein he will be interpreting the mind of the French people of to-day, better probably than would Clemenceau with all his fierce energy. That cautious man prefers to have greatest power concentrated in the hands of a President of the Council or Premier whom they can oust overnight if they do not like what he does, rather than in the hands of a President elected for seven years. Clemenceau, of course, remains President of the Council for the time being.

Paul Deschanel was born in 1858, in Brussels, son of an illustrious father, Emile Deschanel, professor of literature and life Senator, was in Belgium, a voluntary exile, following the coup d'etat of Napoleon the Little. He was educated at the College of Sainte-Barbe and at the Lycee Cordouet. His first entry into public life was as sub-prefect of Dreux, west of Paris, in 1876. In 1879 and 1881 he was sub-prefect respectively of Brest and Meaux.

In 1885 M. Deschanel first entered the Chamber of Deputies as Deputy from the Department of the Eure et Loire, the principal town of which is Chartres. He soon became active as a leader of the Progressive Republican party and so remained until 1896, when he was elected Vice-President of the Chamber. In 1898 he was first elected President of the Chamber, and held the post until 1902, when he failed of reelection. In 1904, in the trouble between church and state, he supported the law.

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